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Notes and News.

The General Election.

The prospect of an immediate General Election raises an immense number of complex questions. From day to day both European situations and our own domestic problems change and alter, and it is impossible to fortell what programmes or what parties may be in existence by December 7th. So far as we can see at present, however, candidates of all sorts and kinds will be in the field; few of them with definite programmes and all of them agreeing to many of the same things. Coalition is a large word, and covers a multitude of things; under its cloak the most divers elements will probably be represented: in these circumstances, wherein the business of voting assumes a new and intricate character, the new electorate will cast its first vote, and we cannot venture to fortell the result. Meanwhile one thing stands out very clearly: if any women, in any constituency want any particular reforms, now is the time for them to say so. All the candidates will listen to the voice of the unknown woman voter, and the next few weeks afford a golden opportunity. We advise every woman voter to inform herself of whom are her candidates, and what their views may be: we urge her not to hesitate to write to them, expressing her own opinions quite plainly; and above all, not to be backward in hearing the speeches with which the country will soon be resounding: in asking questions and in listening critically to the answers.

Women M.P.'s.

The motion for the second reading of the Parliamentary (Qualification of Women) Bill was passed without a division on Monday night. Major Terrell and Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux once more opposed the motion in vain. On the other hand it did not go far enough to satisfy Major Hills, who regretted that the Bill did not remove the professional disqualifications of women. Sir C. Henry said that he proposed at the Committee stage of the Bill to move an Amendment bringing the other House within its scope. Cheers punctuated Lord Robert Cecil's speech, which ended with the statement "that the whole reasoning of the House and of the country was in favour of the measure"—a statement which has our heartiest support.

The Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

The Bastardy Laws Amendment Act (1872) Amendment Bill reached the Committee stage on November 4th. The Bill as it stands proposes to raise the maximum that can be granted under an Affiliation Order to the mother of an illegitimate child from 5s. to 10s. per week, and Sir Robert Newman moved an Amendment to make the maximum 12s. instead of 10s. Sir Willoughby Dickinson suggested that it would be better instead of naming a limit, to amend the law so that the justices could order whatever weekly sum they considered reasonable, having regard to the circumstances of both parents. The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child originally suggested the Amendment advocated by Sir Willoughby, and they have the support of the National Union of Women Workers, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Unfortunately, both Sir Robert Newman's and Sir Willoughby Dickinson's Amendments were dropped, but it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for moving them again in the House of Lords; it would be most unfortunate if the limitation of Affiliation Orders were to be perpetuated by the new legislation.

Women's Suffrage in Holland.

The Constitution of Holland as revised on December 17th, 1918, gives women eligibility for membership to Parliament without giving them the vote; it assigns to the Electoral Law the task of conferring the power to the vote upon them. Since July, there has been one woman M.P., and on September 28th, immediately after the opening of the States-General, Mr. Marchant, a Radical Member, introduced a bill which extends the suffrage as already possessed by men to all Dutch women equally. The text is as simple as possible: it proposes to drop the word "male" from the qualifications of electors. The women are rejoicing at these proposals, and Englishwomen will rejoice with them. What encourages their hopes is the fact that, judging from the press, even the Conservative parties are not averse to the measure. The First Chamber (Senate) is a reactionary body and it is therefore to be hoped that the bill will not be discussed before this Chamber is renewed next July.

Demobilisation of Women Workers.

With the coming of peace, the question of the demobilisation of the great majority of war-workers becomes one of the most urgent and important of all questions, and it is as well to enquire what preparations have been made by the Government to deal with the complicated mass of problems that will necessarily arise. We are considering at the moment, not the demobilisation of the forces of the crown, but the civil war-workers. At the beginning of the war, we heard a great deal about the compiling of a "Peace-book," but there is very little evidence of any work in it having been done. The appointment of the Ministry of Reconstruction raised many hopes; the number of its Committees are legion; very little has as yet been made public as to what plans are being adopted by these Committees, and there is considerable reason to suspect a great deal of overlapping, and not much solid achievement. It is of the utmost importance that not only should well-organised plans be made for dismissing and transporting the many millions of workers affected—the vast majority of which are women—but that training schemes should be put into operation at once for those who will be forced to change their occupation. The case of the women clerks in Government offices is especially deserving of attention. These are of all grades—skilled and unskilled, the latter greatly preponderating. The problem of the future of the unskilled clerk is even a more difficult one than that of the munition and other industrial worker, as the latter are more likely to find work on their own lines. It is imperative to bring pressure to bear on the Government; to find out what they have done in this respect, and what it is proposed to do with regard to the women clerks in their own departments.

WOMEN DOCTORS AND THE ARMY.

We are glad to see that this week the question of the pay and status of the women doctors in the army is being seriously raised in the House of Commons. Their position has been one of those curious anomalies which grow so readily in the soil of our British ways of conducting business; but, unlike some of them, it is an anomaly without an excuse.

The women serving with the R.A.M.C., both at home and abroad, were promised "the same pay and allowances as men similarly employed" as long ago as August, 1916. They have not had them, and the very typical War Office reason seems to be that there are no men "similarly employed," because the civilian men doctors sign on by the year and the women are only allowed to do so by the month. Their grievances are many and tiresome; not the least of them is the fact that every sort and kind of difference occurs in their conditions of service, those with the R.A.M.C. being differently treated from those with the Q.M.A.A.C., and these again differently from the R.A.F. The complexities even of official regulation are multitudinous: the varieties of actual application are even more bewildering, while the plain fact remains everywhere the same, that the women doctors are denied the rank which is necessary to the proper conduct of their work. Everyone knows that in the army, rank, and the badges of rank, are an almost essential part of discipline. That our women doctors have managed to do their magnificent work without these things in a testimony to their personal character and ability that we cannot sufficiently admire. But why, in the name of all that is reasonable, should we make them, because they are women, bear the extra burden of enforcing discipline without authority? And why, because they are women, should they have to pay extra income tax? And why should their promotion, status, railway warrants, disablement pensions and all the rest of it be disadvantageously arranged? It is wrong in theory and wrong in practice, and it is more than time that we invested our medical women with the honour they have more than won.

The position in which they are, and the endless friction and waste of energy that their treatment has necessarily involved ought to teach us a sharp lesson. It is, after all, just another concrete instance of the same old thing, and we can place it quite easily. The famous advice of our intelligent War Office to Dr. Elsie Inglis, "My dear lady, if you want to help your country GO HOME AND KEEP QUIET," has been modified with the years of the war. The advice now runs "WOMEN, YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU," but the fear that inspired the first still inspires the authorities, and the thought of giving women real responsibility and real equality with men still gives them pause. And to that fear is added the monstrous and iniquitous stinginess which seems to govern all financial dealings with women. If it is a question of payment, of privilege, or of hard cash some circuitous way other than the obvious one of justice is always to be found. If it is not the compulsorily different terms of employment, as in the case of the doctors, it is compulsorily different hours, or compulsorily different work; or perhaps just a plain difference in war bonus for admittedly equal work. Or if it is none of these things it is underpayment without excuse, which, bad as it is, is an easier and more straightforward proposition. Wherever we look we see the same thing, but now, at last, we see a revolt against it. The women doctors will not endure their troubles much longer: nor will the civil servants, nor the teachers: the transport workers have taken things into their own hands, and the engineering workers must follow them. Politics and political prejudices have given way: the Eligibility Bill is already on its way through Parliament. The solicitors must follow, and then the Bar, the Bench and the Police courts. We can stand this particular kind of anomaly no longer. It must go.

Some Notes on Local Government.

Parish Councils.

The history of Local Government in England throws an interesting light on that curious characteristic of the English temperament which has been described as "muddling through," but which is in reality a tendency to leave things alone until they create trouble or difficulty and then deal with them piecemeal, instead of treating them as parts of one large coherent scheme. Perhaps this method, in spite of its many disadvantages, has something to be said for it, inasmuch as it offers scope for individual ingenuity, some amount of experiment, and while it undoubtedly results in inequalities and overlapping, does not incline so much to turning the whole of individual and communal life into a huge inexorable machine.

Thus, in England, we have gradually passed from what has been called "the golden age of Local Government" in early Saxon times to a condition described in 1883 as "a chaos of areas, a chaos of authorities, and a chaos of rates." In Saxon days administrative Government was centred in the shire (or county) under a shire-reeve or sheriff. This officer acted as judge and tax-levier, and became, as time went on, more and more autocratic. On the other hand, as the villages grew into towns or boroughs, the Craft Guilds developed a spirit of municipal freedom; and the parish priests called meetings of townsfolk in the Church, and these parish meetings became the centre of Local Government, fixing the poor rates, maintaining highways, preparing the lists of voters, &c. These bodies developed into the Vestries which no longer have any powers of civil Government, since the Local Government Act of 1894 made a distinction between town and country parishes and created Parish Councils for rural parishes with a population over 300 persons; so that now every place which is not under an Urban District Council is a rural parish and has a Parish Meeting, while parishes with a population over 300 have also a Parish Council, which, however, requires the consent of the Parish Meeting to all its enactments.

Parish Meetings are held every year in March, and are an assembly of parochial electors; that is, persons who have the Local Government or Parliamentary vote in the parish. This included women, married or single, provided a married woman possessed a qualification for a Local Government vote separate from her husband. Presumably now, women who possess the Parliamentary vote in the parish will also qualify as parochial electors. The Parish Meeting has powers connected with providing the parish with light, baths, burial and recreation grounds and libraries; it also has powers over parish property, charities and highways; and may apply to the County Council for any of the powers of a Parish Council. There are 7,250 Parish Councils in England and Wales, and 12,985 Parish Meetings, which elect the Parish Councils. The powers and duties of Parish Councils (subject to the consent of the Parish Meetings and the supervision of the County Councils) are many and various.

A Parish Council manages the parish property except that belonging to the Church—it may rent or acquire land, grazing ground, &c., under the County Council, and regulates allotments under the Board of Agriculture. It may intervene to prevent the enclosure of commons; and, subject to the consent of the Parish Meeting, may close or restore a public right of way; it may also acquire lands for public pleasure grounds or for public buildings, and drain or cover ponds, clean streams, sink wells, and if necessary apply to the Rural District Council for a water scheme.

It administers the Adoptive Acts, with the consent of the Parish Meeting. Adoptive Acts are permissive not compulsory Acts of Parliament, and enable authorities to provide lighting, baths, public wash houses, and public libraries within their area. The Parish Council can also call on its District Council to repair roads and sewers and to build new cottages to replace unfit ones; and if the District Council fails to comply with its request, appeal can be made to the County Council.

Very restricted powers of levying rates and borrowing money may also be exercised.

The number of Parish Councillors is between five and fifteen, and the chairman is elected annually by themselves; most of their officers act without remuneration, and include a treasurer, clerk, and overseers; and the Council keeps the Parish books, documents, &c., and minutes of its meetings. It must meet at least four times a year and must be represented on all school management committees within its area.

Finally, the Parish Council may appeal against the assessment of the Union or against the County rate, to the Court of

Quarter Sessions, in cases where it thinks these too high. Women are greatly needed on Parish Councils where they can do much useful work in caring for the welfare of the women and children. For example, children are legally compelled to attend school in all weathers, and it is important to provide a good footpath from the farms and villages to the schools. Rural housing is one of the crying scandals of to-day, and Parish Councils can do much to obtain better housing conditions; a fine example of this is the persistence of Councillor Jane Escombe, who, after five years of opposition succeeded in getting six cottages built in her parish.

Carol Ring.

The Ministry of Health and the Insurance Act.

It appears fairly certain that before long the present Health Insurance Act will be subjected to a thorough overhauling and revision; and it is natural to assume that this will coincide with the establishment of the promised Ministry of Health. The manifest faults and weaknesses of the Insurance Act have been dwelt upon often enough; it suffered from being introduced at a time when the idea that the nation's health was a matter of general public interest was still quite new and strange to a number of worthy people who have since seen good reason to alter their opinions upon the subject. But even as it is, the Act does undoubtedly enable a good many poor patients to obtain medical advice and treatment when formerly they trusted to luck and the patent medicine dealer; moreover, the machinery, both local and general, is now in running order, and the officials have been carefully trained in their duties; therefore it is probable that the Insurance Act will merely be revised and strengthened from time to time, and its weakest points eliminated, until in the end it becomes a valuable administrative branch of the Ministry of Health.

When the Insurance Act was originally before Parliament, women were voteless and consequently negligible citizens. It follows quite naturally that the Act is most faulty in its dealings with women and children. There were good intentions behind the 30s. maternity benefit; but we can see now that a well-organised service of doctors and midwives, adequately paid *by the State* and free to all insured persons, would have been, in many ways, more helpful. A good deal of blame has been showered both upon doctors and midwives because they took advantage of the 30s. benefit to raise their own fees; but it must be remembered that the doctor's fee, in the majority of working-class districts, was previously 10s. 6d.; not an excessive payment for a very difficult and exhausting job, which generally involved being up all night; especially when we recollect that in cases where the husband was out of work, or where both parents happened to be of a naturally easy-going temperament, it was often never paid at all! It is certain that every doctor would infinitely prefer to receive his money direct from the State; but alas, the old mistake appears again even in the new Maternity and Child Welfare Act: the matter is left entirely to the discretion of the local authorities, who have not hitherto shown much wisdom in such matters. Even then the unfortunate doctor can only look to them to remunerate him some day in the future, "when the patient attended is unable to pay"—a question which he has certainly neither the time nor the inclination to investigate at two o'clock on a winter's morning. As a matter of fact, all these services should be freely available to the patients whenever necessary, and whatever their financial status; and the question of money should never arise between doctor and patient at all—but he should know that his fee is guaranteed to him by the local Insurance Committee, from whom he could receive it, and to whom the patient, if sufficiently well-to-do, could partially refund it afterwards.

And of course the wives of insured persons have still no claim whatever for any sort of medical attendance except during childbirth, unless they can afford to become private patients. Where a big hospital is available, they may go there as out-patients, if they care to endure the publicity, the long hours of waiting, and the rather perfunctory attendance. But in country places and in small provincial towns—and England is made up of small provincial towns—there is not even this resource for them. And in our awakened interest in the working-class mother, we must not overlook the fact that she is liable to all the common disorders of humanity, even when she is not actively engaged in bringing a new and valuable little citizen into the world. It was a standing joke against the gentlemen who first sketched out the framework of the Insurance Act that, in considering the probable causes of female disability, they "forgot pregnancy." To-day we seem in some danger of forgetting everything else!

The children again, have their school doctor, and may also attend the out-patient department or the baby clinic; but there are a great many infantile ailments which ought to be treated at home. It is not too soon for women's organisations to begin agitating for the immediate inclusion, under the benefits of the Insurance Act, of all the dependents of an insured person; not only the wives and children, but elderly parents living with and supported by a son or daughter—dependence, in short, being reckoned as it is reckoned for an Army Separation Allowance. The additional cost of this reform would be met, I should imagine, through an increased State contribution; it is not a burden which the employer could reasonably be asked to share, except in his capacity as a taxpayer. It would be a proof, however, of the validity of all our good resolutions concerning the future welfare of the nation; and it would do away with an enormous amount of unnecessary suffering and anxiety, and also with the many grotesque anomalies continually arising under the Act in its present form.

For example, a labourer may be suffering from rheumatism; his panel doctor attends him and prescribes for him, the medicine being made up at the chemist's. But at the same time he may be attending the labourer's wife for bronchitis, she being one of his private patients, and dispensing medicine to her himself from his own surgery. Or (what I am afraid is more probable) she does not consult him as a private patient at all, but obtains a little gratuitous advice during one of his visits to her husband, when she is obviously too ill to be up and about! And however creditable this may be to the doctor's good nature, it is not at all a satisfactory arrangement either for him or for the poor woman.

It is perfectly true that medical attendance alone will not make a healthy nation. If a doctor is called in to see the daughter of a wealthy shipowner, and finds her suffering from anæmia, he can confidently advise a six week's holiday at the seaside, abundance of nourishing food, &c., in addition to the mild mixture of iron he prescribes for her. If a factory girl comes to him, suffering in precisely the same way, he can only give her the iron and make a few mild suggestions concerning fresh air, which she will probably disregard; for if his "bottle of stuff" won't make her all right again, what's he there for? So the factory girl goes back to her work, and sleeps at night in a bedroom six feet by ten with her two little sisters; and naturally she does not make such a speedy recovery as the shipowner's daughter!

In short, it is a paradoxical truth that the best way to make England a thoroughly healthy country would be to make everybody ineligible for Insurance benefit by raising their incomes above the level of £160 per annum. But in default of this, we must ensure that the innumerable women and children whose maladies would yield to a little skilled treatment, even when handicapped as they are at present by poverty and unsuitable surroundings, shall no longer be deterred from obtaining that treatment. I may add that in the North Country colliery districts the miners still retain their "pit doctors" to attend all dependents for the payment of a small sum weekly; although they themselves are now insured persons. In this case the whole cost is borne by the wage-earner himself; it is an arrangement carried on from the old days when both the miner and his family provided for their medical attendance in this way. But in its way it is a small "working model" of a system that—with the State to back it and bear the chief responsibility—should apply to every trade in the country.

Madge Mears.

A Letter from the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia.

(The following letter was written on September 9th by a member of the S.W.H. Transport Column lately stationed at Yellak, just north of Ostrovo.) *

We left our old camp on Saturday morning at seven and started on the trail. The day before had been most strenuous for all of us. All but two went off to do a tremendously long run, much further than they had ever gone before, and I was left in charge of breaking camp, which meant ripping the roof off all our huts, getting tents out, packing various things and dismantling houses, &c.—a very strenuous day, and we worked

* It has been reported that this column was the first to enter Uskub in the rear of the French Army.

hard. Then, one by one those tired souls came in to snatch a bit of food on the way through. Many had had nothing to eat for eight or ten hours, and the dust and heat were terrific, the new road awful. While at supper at about 8.30, a poor Serb soldier wounded in seven places in the chest and shoulders, came in asking if this was the hospital. He had walked nine kilos with just the dressings he had. Sister Kerr looked at them and gave him food, and when I told him I would drive him the rest of the way he nearly cried with joy. I took him to the nearest hospital, but they could not take him in as they were going forward the next day, so I had to go on to the other and got home about eleven.

Then our part in the advance began, each car fairly heavily laden; we travelled without even a change of clothing, but tents and food weigh a lot. Our suit cases with a change of clothing were to follow next day, but here we are at the end of three; and you would take us for chimney sweeps or crossing sweepers—the grubbiest looking lot imaginable. We wash our clothes when going to bed, but they are khaki coloured from the dust, and we can't get it out. As for our overalls, it is impossible to get the mixture of dust and motor oil out. That reminds me of Miss Dillon's tale of going to get a telephone message through that we needed more motor oil. Our S.W.H. unit is the nearest to the front and always has been. The Serbs are very pleased about it, and she was much amused when the Serb said over the 'phone: "Our women are here and they want oil, and by God they shall have it."

But I must go back to our first day. So strange to go past our old dressing stations and see them closed!—then on through the country we had often watched our shells bursting over—and awfully good shooting it must have been judging by all the shell-holes on the road we had to manœuvre our cars through. It isn't bad when you have only luggage on your car, as you have only got to guard against breaking springs, &c., but when you have two men, as I had the next day, so badly wounded that you were asked not to bump them for fear of starting hæmorrhages, it is a very, very different matter.

I had to stop to get water and oil, and could not see the others when I got to a fork in the road. A man told me they had gone to the right, so I went for a joy ride for about four miles over the old Bulgar trenches most beautifully paved, till I got to a hill that "ideo Alleluia," which is a Serb saying for "went to Heaven." I stuck half-way up and saw some English Tommies, so went to ask them to push. They said I'd never get up, I said the others had and I must. Imagine my astonishment when informed that no other S.W.H. cars had gone past. So back I had to go knowing only that the name of the village (or remains of one) I wanted to get to began with S. I found it eventually and started up the worst hill I had tried till then—stuck four times in the heavy dust and gave a Serb ammunition cart driver an excellent imitation of an angry British woman by telling him in a bad mixture of Serb and English what I thought of him for repeatedly urging his carts in front of me when I was toiling round the steep corners. After I had made him and his men push me up four of them he came to the conclusion I was right—that a motor ambulance full of luggage is not an æroplane in disguise. Then on along a badly shelled road we had to bring the wounded back on every day. I forgot to tell you about one place earlier in the day where we went through a narrow gorge, single road most of the way, and hundreds of English and French vans and lorries, ammunition and food carts, drawn by horses, oxen, or the extraordinary water buffalo, which are quite black, with white eyes with a black spot in the centre; big guns, cavalry, prisoners to work on the roads—all in one wild mix-up, some coming, some going. If this is an advance, what must a retreat be like? My admiration for those who survived the great retreat from Serbia grows every moment. At one place a big French lorry, a yard in front of me, tried to pass a van, and the bank caved in—the lorry upset over the bank, but, fortunately, very slowly. Its four men were spilled out and landed safely on their feet in the stream eighteen feet below, while the lorry hung suspended by two wheels. No one was hurt. We do things—and escape—in the Balkans that cannot be done elsewhere. My car being narrower than the lorry, got past alright. Eventually I found the others and was not sorry, as it was after four, and we had had breakfast at six, but I am sure I was full of mud, having swallowed pecks of dust and drunk a champagne bottle of water. I hope the S.W.H. will not get a bad reputation, two of us were seen using them, there not being enough water bottles to go round the unit. I gave mine to another driver when we met on her way back to our old hospital, with patients. She had gone the day before and could not make headway for the crush of carts, and had to put up at a Serb dressing station she had reached at nine that night. She had less than two hours' sleep and has not caught us up yet.

We pitched camp that evening, and as it was hot slept outside, finding ourselves like little dust heaps in the morning, as we were beside the road. We evacuated that dressing station's patients the next morning, as it was moving forward. We are attached to it now and its Médecin Chef treats us like a father. Then on we came in the afternoon. It took only about two hours but was filled with strange things, and we had places to go through that I should have said were impossible had I not known the cars on ahead had gone through. Streams full of big boulders the size of hatboxes, and in one very narrow gorge one drove up the bed of the stream bouncing around among those big stones, praying when one came down after a big bounce that one would not land upon one's differential or with one's transmission case on top. Why we did not nobody knows. We called it "Dead Horse Gorge," and you did not breathe any more than you could help, for about half a mile up it. There were dead Bulgars, too—they had not had time to bury them in their hasty flight. Then we got to another Serb dressing station in a lovely spot under trees, with the sign still there in German, "Lager der Funste Geb Staff." It was good to see it there in country the Serbs had won back. On we went and up the worst hill yet, zigzagging straight up the side of a precipice; past Bulgar camps and hospitals they had burnt before flying—more German signs. German helmets, and Bulgar rifles, and multitudes of household things scattered everywhere. We found a big pile of nails in one place that will be most useful. At last we got here—a beautiful camp, and four of us are sharing a beautifully made house. It is not quite furnished and evidently was intended for winter quarters for Bulgar staff officers. We go forward to-morrow. If our clothes do not catch us up soon, it will be a case of S.W.H. Unit Standing for Scarecrow Without Her Uniform. However, we are as happy as can be and so glad for our beloved Serbs' sake.

Paying for the War.*

A colossal ignorance of the social history of our own country, a lack of concreteness in our University teaching with regard to that portion of the Science of Economics which deals with the distribution of wealth and income, and the national vice of refusing to look facts in the face, have all combined to lend to the proposal currently known as the Capital-Levy a paradoxical and revolutionary air. It does not seem to be generally known that the first advocate of this method of "paying for the war" was Ricardo, the founder of "classical" political economy: that one year before the outbreak of war a complicated scheme embodying the principle of a Capital-Levy had been accepted in Germany, together with an altogether novel scheme for an increment duty on the future growth of capital-values; and that the facts as to the actual distribution of property in the United Kingdom as a result of the war are such as to make one wonder whether any solution other than a levy will be acceptable to the mass of the population. So far as brevity, clearness and concreteness on a subject of vital national importance conduce to usefulness, Mr. Pethick Lawrence's little book deserves the utmost praise and attention.

What will be the position when the war is over? Mr. Lawrence assumes that the war has ended in August, 1918, and budgets as on March 31st, 1919. The result is a total debt of £7,300 *millions*. It is now obvious that this figure is already quite inadequate and that the aggregate debt six months after the close of hostilities will probably be between £9,000 and 10,000 millions. That is to say, the nation as a whole will be in debt to its domestic and foreign creditors for that capital-sum which will involve an annual charge of *at least* £450 to 500 millions for interest and sinking fund, *i.e.*, between 2¼ and 2½ times the amount of the *total* pre-war expenditure of the Government. By paying for the war by loan rather than by heavy taxation, we have merely postponed the evil day—for it is obvious that instead of privations during the war we have preferred to run the risk of enormous permanent taxation when the war is once over. Perhaps we have not, as a nation, thought about the matter at all: but at last the facts are beginning to be realised. If we do not choose to adopt the scheme of a Capital-Levy, we shall for long periods of time be faced with the necessity of

* *A Levy on Capital.* By F. W. Pethick Lawrence. (Allen and Unwin. 1s 6d. net.)

taxation at least 3¼ to 3½ times the pre-war amount, *without taking into account the rise in prices and the urgent necessity for an increase in the scale of socially necessary services performed by Government!*

What, meanwhile, has been happening to the aggregate national capital and its distribution? The *constituents* of that wealth have been changing, and its gross aggregate amount has grown less, but the astounding fact emerges that *the private wealth, i.e., income yielding (either in terms of money or in utility) property in the hands of individuals has actually increased from a sum total of £12,500 millions in 1914 to at least £15,000 millions, on the assumption that war ceased in August this year.* This result is due to the combined influence of depreciation of certain items of capital, a small increase in the value of the assets of the State minus a huge addition to its debt plus a large increase in claims on the Government in the hands of individuals. So much for the absolute figures. Now before the war the distribution of private property was such that 12 per cent. of the wealth was owned by 88 per cent. of the population, and 12 per cent. of the population owned 88 per cent. of the wealth (p. 36). This estimate is the convergent result of a series of studies by leading authorities whose views, however divergent in details, leave no escape from so disturbing a situation. But, as our author says (p. 44):

"Speaking broadly, the distribution of wealth will be still more unequal when the war ceases than it was when it began, for the small number of rich men will retain most of what they had before, and in addition will have added the right to participate, because of their holdings of War Loan (bought largely out of profits on war contracts) in a great part of the wealth which future generations will create."

It is with such a socially and politically dangerous situation that the Capital-Levy proposes to deal. Instead of paying the bondholder a high rate of interest for many years to come (in terms of money which will be constantly appreciating as the general level of prices falls), raised out of the annual produce of the nation by means of taxation, it proposes to pay off at least part of the Capital sum by means of a single levy or tax on the value of property, war-loan and other. This brings one to the final point to which attention need be drawn. This process is often spoken of as if it involved the destruction of capital. This is a complete fallacy. In so far as war-loan is concerned, although it is capital from the individual's standpoint, it is not capital in the sense that it is a useful instrument of production. It is, in fact, a perpetual rent charge, redistributing the annual income of the nation, but not increasing its amount, and even, if it involves taking from the poor to add to the income of the rich, causing a diminution in the aggregate satisfaction derived from that annual income. Payment of the levy through surrender of a proportionate amount of war-loan will *not* therefore involve the least reduction in the fund of useful material objects, which constitutes the social capital. In so far, further, as the levy is imposed on other forms of property, say, house-property, what will happen as a result of the levy is *not* a destruction of the house-property but a transference of ownership, which, as Mr. Pethick Lawrence points out may very usefully be used by the State as a means of increasing its control over forms of capital of national importance. When these points are once grasped, we think most people will agree with Mr. Pethick Lawrence without fear that they are sacrificing economic orthodoxy to social sentiment, that there can be "nothing more fraught with grievous peril to the country than a sordid struggle in which the very rich are fighting with their backs against the wall to preserve their vast hoards of wealth against the growing demands of industry and the persistent claims of poverty and distress."

We heartily recommend this book to all women-voters who desire to obtain a clear and restrained presentation of the case for a Capital-Levy.

T. E. GREGORY.

Reviews.

Scenes of Russian Life. By Josephine Calina. (Constable and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.).

"Dark Russia! Poor dark Russia!"—the words of a friend of the author of *Scenes of Russian Life*, uttered just before she died broken hearted, strike the note of the book. The story seems hardly that of a nation struggling nobly to be free—it is rather of squalid beings, living lives of aimless despair, of sordid bondage. Yet, because it is evident that Josephine Calina loves these beings, and has thought it worth while to suffer things worse than death for them, we must perforce believe that her undoubted genius falls short of the

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WOMEN WORKERS & THE FUTURE.—2.

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greatest. They seem only ugly to us; we can pity—but it is hard for us to love them or understand them. Yet it is cruel to feel thus, and we could wish the author had succeeded in showing more clearly the loveableness she has found. Russia under her tyrannies is indeed a country diseased, and her writers must always perhaps seem like students in pathology. Yet there are beautiful things there—inanimate things—and of these our author knows how to tell us:—

"One who has not lived in Russia cannot know the real beauty of a perfect white winter's night, a white night that bears the peaceful silence of the earth and heavens combined in one pure white dream. . . . The trees are dressed in gorgeous capes, trimmed with brilliants and with pearls. . . . . Why was the night so lovely, so calm? Why were the stars playing with frivolous joy the one with the other?"

And she, who so loves beauty, left it and went away to prison for the sake of those people of hers about whom she allows us to cherish no illusions. What she saw and suffered in prison fills many pages—to read which freezes the blood. Suffice it to sum up as she did to the Chief of Police "Now children," he asked, "how are you?" "Quite well," we answered. "Did you like a prison? Not so bad, is it?" "No, not worse than hell, I suppose."

After a lifetime spent in prison—this prison of stone walls, or the prison of darkened souls in the villages, Josephine Calina still cries courage to Russia:—

"Russia! Rejoice in your freedom and respect it, for you paid dearly for it. Let those who have died for you keep the ideal of liberation in your heart."

The echo lingers in our ears—that Russia may rejoice and *respect* freedom, and that her friends may do so, too.

Miss Calina's book has a special interest for students of a world-wide woman's movement. She has herself a savage contempt for her own sex:—

"Where can you find more jealousy, more ignorance, more harmful, snakelike characteristics than in woman? These qualities are all of a low standard, and come from her common, narrow desires towards her own comfort. . . . . Of course, a woman knows that to root out any of these means pain and discomfort for herself. So she does not do it."

These uglinesses and those to which we have already referred may have something to do with the lot of the peasant girl. Here is a typical case:—

"Is the bridegroom nice and young? Do they love one another?" "No. He is not young, and not even nice. She doesn't love him. But her parents want her to marry him. She cries day and night, but still she must—she has to marry."

And—

"I watched the bride's sleigh, and listened to its jingling bells. It would all have been so beautiful if there had not been that young broken heart of the bride, decaying with every moment as the sledges neared the church."

But "it"—the car of progress—moves, even in Russia:—

"All the societies, all the progressive ideas are supported by women equally with men. We stand alongside the men, and do not need all the fussy business of special women's movements. The men recognise us equally—in fact, can do nothing without us!"

A. H. W.

The Young Wage Earner. Essays and Reports. Edited by J. J. Findlay. (Published by Sidgwick & Jackson, Ltd. Price 3s. 6d. net.)

The collection of essays and reports published under the above title by the Committee of the Uplands Association fails, in our opinion, to justify its existence. In confessing that the volume is intended to be neither comprehensive nor exhaustive, its Editor disarms some of our criticism. He does not, however, deter us from describing the greater part of its contents as platitudinous and inconclusive. Indeed, with the exception of an appended "note" by an unnamed "Christian minister," the only parts of the book which can be regarded as having any value at all are the six "reports" which comprise about one-third of the whole volume and which set forth a number of haphazard but definite facts concerning educational experiments actually in working. The afore-mentioned "note" is, however, interesting as containing a well-directed attack upon the apotheosis of free choice in early education.

M. D. S.

The Sword of Justice. A Play. By Eva Gore Booth. (Headley Bros. Ltd., 72, Oxford Street, W. 1. Price 1s. 6d. net.)

Miss Gore Booth explains her *Sword of Justice* in a preface, but we like to see what we see, not through any medium, but in the play itself. Its story is: Gualberto's brother has been murdered, and he twice spares Malvolio, the murderer. Malvolio also murders Maria's father and daughter—she seeks the murderer with what she deems "a sword of justice" in her hand, believing that instinct will make her recognise him. But she, too, though unknowingly, spares and nurses him at the last, for when they meet she sees only that he has "such a beautiful face" and is hard pressed by the soldiers of the Pope, whose horses he has stolen. The murderer, thus thrice spared, dies of his wounds, cowardly and unrepentant—his excuses to Gualberto: "Oh, what does it matter! . . . *That* (the murder) is an old story. Hide me, hide me"—remaining upon his lips. Gualberto is dragged away to prison by the soldiers he had baffled for Malvolio's sake. Miss Gore Booth is artist rather than preacher in her play, and it is the stronger for that. If there is a moral it may be that to God, alone omniscient, belongs the sword of justice.

A. H. W.

Correspondence.

[*Letters written on both sides of the paper can in no case be published.*—ED.]

THE FUTURE OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

MADAM,—I believe the large majority of members of our Societies will agree with Mrs. Walford Common. It is a plain fact that the mass of women who are now enfranchised have never been our members, and will not have anything to do with us now—nor with our reform programmes, as suggested by Miss Rathbone. At the same time, it is up to us, more or less, to provide the avenues for the education of women as citizens. I do not know that our local Society has moved at all, but most of its members have joined our Branch of the National Council of Women, which had, at the outset (June last) more than double the membership of the Suffrage Society at any time. We had to act at once, because of the overtures that were being made by party and crudely new agencies. Let us dissolve before we lose dignity, and look forward to seeing Mrs. Fawcett returned as one of our first women M.P.s. BERTHA AIKIN.

MADAM,—The first paragraph of Mrs. Common's letter in your issue of October 25th seemed to promise help in adjusting the relations between the Societies of the N.U.W.S.S. and the Executive Committee. It was disappointing on reading further to find her sneering at "the list as long as our arm of social reforms" offered by the Executive, "*not one of which*," she declares, "*would be agreeable to the opinion of all the societies*, and many of which would be adopted by very few."

But surely the need of most of those reforms has been a staple argument for the Suffrage ever since woman began to demand it. During forty-five years of the agitation which I can recall, there has been constant protest against the legal and social inequalities of women, as a weight of injustice which only the possession of the vote could effectually remove. Now that this is won, does Mrs. Common seriously propose to slacken or drop the attempt to remedy that massive injustice, as being "too controversial, and the implications involved far too obscure?"

Take two examples—the Enforcement of Wives' Maintenance Orders and Equality of Parents in Guardianship of Children. Is it likely that the millions of women, whom Mrs. Common describes as "mostly unenlightened," should fail to comprehend the crying need for reform of laws which closely concern them, and this even if they have not suffered from them personally? And there are other points on the N.U.W.S.S. programme, such as women on juries, as magistrates, as police, which are also of great importance. We need a big central organisation to carry out the programme, and I see no reason why it should not be included in the work of a National Women Citizens' Association, as it has been combined with Suffrage propaganda in the N.U.W.S.S. for years past.

We all admit that the new electors urgently need education for their public duties. But that is no reason for belittling the organised effort to secure for them such elementary rights as every youth of twenty-one possesses. In the past there have been many cases of women who were seriously impeded in the performance of such public duties as were permitted than by the want of political status and legal rights. I believe it to be an outcome of experience that duties should connote rights, as rights connote duties.

I agree with Mrs. Common so far in desiring that the Council at Birmingham should boldly decide to reconstitute the N.U.W.S.S. on a very broad basis, but should wish it to undertake, not only the education of women citizens, not only legal and social reform of women's disabilities, but both conjointly. (MRS.) SARAH SMITHSON.

MADAM,—I should be glad if you would permit me to reply to Miss Margaret Jones—not that I cherish the illusion that any arguments of mine might alter her views, but because she stands for one school of opinion as to what should be the future policy of the N.U.W.S.S., and because, in the forthcoming meetings at Birmingham, either that view must prevail, or something in the nature of the one I put forward. It is vital that the delegates should go to the meetings with a precise understanding of the question at issue: otherwise the Council, like the last, will end in a muddled compromise.

Miss Jones holds by the "equality" programme, which she believes is clear and definite. I hold, on the other hand, that the minutes of the Executive meetings prove that the "equality" programme can be made to cover almost any social, political, or economic question, and a vast deal of energy is expended by the Executive in deciding what it is going to do; so much so, that in six months or more the societies have had no one definite piece of work set them, except to raise funds for Headquarters.

On the other hand, Miss Jones considers that the work of the W.C.A.'s is vague, and again I disagree. The *future* programme may be in a sense vague, because the powers and outlook of the W.C.A.'s will widen so tremendously, but the present programme appears to me to be the opposite of vague, to be clear, actual, and urgent. To begin with, we shall all agree that the first duty of a W.C.A. is to get hold of the new woman voter; we must "educate our masters." We especially own that obligation, who did so much towards the putting of power into ignorant hands. And this first item in the programme is not vague, but like all elementary things simple and clear, as simple and direct as teaching a child its A B C.

At the same time, there would be, in connection with all W.C.A.'s, a governing body or committee; in many cases it would correspond closely in personnel and organisation with the suffrage committees of the past. It would be the business of such a committee to watch local affairs; *e.g.*, it should be ready at the first opportunity to work in favour of Women Councillors and Women Members of Parliament. Headquarters, with its organisation, could be invaluable to the societies in these two heavy pieces of work. And societies so engaged in practical local work would be the medium through which Headquarters could press for any reform which had got past the stage of "research," and reached that of practical politics. If such a relation between Headquarters and the Societies could be consummated, or perhaps I should say restored, I do not think the Executive need fear a grudging spirit when funds were required.

One word as to overlapping, which we shall all prefer to avoid. If we do what I press for—that is, devote ourselves largely to what I will call briefly "citizen" work, I admit that we cannot avoid some over-

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lapping, temporarily, with the N.U.W.W.; but I submit that we are not *encroaching*, and that the organisation of our Society is much better fitted than the other for democratic work of the kind I have described, work which involves coming into close contact with the mass of women voters. And I should like to ask Miss Jones if the programme which she prefers, what we have called the "equality" programme has not, as a matter of fact, worked out into a very obvious encroachment on the work of the N.U.W.W.; which always concerned itself with a wide variety of questions, upon which research work was done by means of sub-committees. The minutes of the Executive reveal the fact that we are not only doing the same work as other societies, but frequently playing second fiddle to them.

To sum up, I have no objection to research work in itself; all the questions which come up under the "equality" programme are deeply interesting and important; but continual discussion and enquiry are not compatible with real campaigning, and if the N.U.W.S.S. wishes to keep its forces in the field, it will have to make up its mind at the forthcoming meetings, which work should come first, and then put its shoulder to the wheel and do it. E. Common (Mrs. Walford Common).

THE ORGANISATION OF NURSES.

Madam,—A contemporary states that the efficiency of a Ministry of Health will largely depend on the work of nurses. The effectiveness of their work will again depend on the efficiency of their organisation. One of the main features of this organisation is a proper system of State Registration—a system that will give the proper measure of State control, and represent all the important interests involved, whilst leaving the members of the profession freedom for development and expression.

The pioneer, established promoter and guardian of the movement for State Registration—the Central Committee for State Registration—has a bill ready for Parliament which has been merely awaiting a time when legislation of this kind could be passed without hampering urgent war activities. A recently formed body—the College of Nursing—has also drafted a bill of its own, which is unfortunate, as all the bodies promoting State Registration had come to a complete agreement about the Central Committee's bill, and this new one has aroused strong antagonism and plunged the nursing profession into discord.

The Central Committee has been patiently negotiating with the College for over two years in the hopes of putting an end to this harmful state of affairs, without the sacrifice of principle. As a result, the College bill has been improved, and its latest draft provides guarantees that the qualification for the general register after the period of grace shall be a not less than three years' term of training and a central examination, and that registered nurses shall occupy seats on the Permanent Council to administer the Act.

Nominally also the principle that the nurses' societies shall be represented on the Provisional Council has been conceded, *but* and it is a very big but—the value of the concession has been destroyed by the provision that the only duty which that Provisional Council can perform is "forthwith" to proceed to appoint the Permanent Council, on which the nurses' societies are not to be represented! Their only function will therefore be to act as their own hangman!

A new and most dangerous provision is that empowering the Council to form as many supplementary registers as it pleases; for instance, registers might be formed of Maternity Nurses, Children's Nurses, and many other partially trained women, thus undoing the value of Registration for the fully trained and upsetting the economics of the profession.

The draft also provides that the College of Nursing shall be especially recognised by the Act and its register of nurses accepted by Parliament. This is obviously unjust to many professional women, for there are registers of nurses and organised societies of nurses of much older standing which have proved their worth by patient years of effective pioneer work. But above all such legislation is unwise for the future of the profession, for it grants a monopoly to one society, that society being largely under the influence of employers.

There is plenty of educational work for the College of Nursing to do, but the State Registration of Nurses must be controlled by a Council which is independent of any one body, and representative of all the interests concerned.

The Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration provides all the necessary safeguards. It has been amended and brought up-to-date, and is in charge of Dr. Chapple. It grants representation to the College of Nursing as well as to other bodies concerned. The College has been invited to support this Bill and assist in passing it through Parliament. A fine opportunity is now offered for the College to withdraw the opposition which has rent the profession in twain, and unite in obtaining a just measure of registration without further delay.

E. L. C. Eden,
Hon. Adviser to National Union of Trained Nurses.

CHILDREN AND STREET COLLECTIONS.

Madam,— On more than one occasion during the last four years of war you have allowed us to appeal to public opinion through your columns, in the matter of street collections by school-girls and children. The head mistresses of public secondary schools for girls have encouraged in every way in their province both the formation of War Savings Associations and the collection of funds for charitable and patriotic purposes within the schools. In the fourth year of war a new plan for the collection of such funds is suggested to us, without previous consultation as to its adaptability to school conditions—that known as "The Long Trail of Pennies," formed in the public streets.

The educational loss and moral danger involved in such a scheme by the encouragement it offers to young girls and children of school age to spend their time in the streets, must be obvious to all who consider it with care, nor should the danger to their health by exposure to inclement weather be overlooked. The collection of many pennies would not compensate us for injury to the physical health or the educational efficiency of those who are at once our most precious possession and the foundation of all our hopes for the future of our country.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee,

Reta Oldham,
President, Association of Head Mistresses,
92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

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A CORRECTION.

MADAM,—Would you allow me to make a correction in your impression of my letter of last week?

I wrote "the rest of the cottages in the village are built and owned by small men." Your printer, no doubt, owing to my own bad handwriting, makes me say "the *best* of the cottages."

MAUD SELBORNE.

[We much regret that this error should have occurred.—ED., COMMON CAUSE.]

Reports, Notices, etc.

EIGHTH YEAR OF THE ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION.

ON November 13th, at the Central Hall, Westminster, the Duchess of Sutherland will open at three o'clock the Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts that serves to remind us in good time of the coming of Christmas, and the need for Christmas presents. No one can do better than buy the gifts he or she requires at the stalls in the Central Hall, where artists show their handiwork; the things they have designed and made themselves, and which bear the stamp of individuality and patient endeavour. Toys bought at the Englishwoman Exhibition charm grown-up people as much as children, and many of them will be found to give much delight to wounded soldiers in hospital. The machine-made object reproduced in its hundreds of thousands has none of the glamour of the little things fashioned for one by a worker who takes delight in her design and labours *con amore*. Those who visit the Exhibition and spend there, for the pleasure of others, what they have determined to spend in their way, fulfil two good objects—they uphold English handicrafts and foster and restore the ancient gift of artistic feeling in British people.

The Exhibition will be open from the 13th to the 23rd of November from 11 to 6, first day 2.30 to 6.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES EXHIBITION.

The above Exhibition, held at Caxton Hall from October 24th to 29th, included specimens of variety of arts and crafts; but not only these; food production took an honoured place. There were on sale examples of vegetables and fruits—fresh and preserved—which make a great appeal in the present shortage; this department of the Exhibition was supplemented by a special exhibition organised by the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Toys of all sorts ranked next in popularity, and were chiefly rivalled by needlework, both ornamental and useful. There were examples of revivals of old handicrafts, such as rug-making, spinning, weaving, smocking, and also the more common-place (though no less ingenious) art of making new clothes out of old. A Book Hall containing books relating to agriculture, care of animals, handicrafts, etc., was supplemented by books on Infant Welfare and small plays for children.

N.U.W.S.S. Societies.

WAKEFIELD.—A meeting of the Wakefield Society was held on Friday, October 18th, in the Music Saloon, Wood Street. Miss Beaumont (Hon. Treasurer W.R.F.) presided, and Miss H. A. L. Fisher spoke on Women and Citizenship. The meeting was a large and influential one, and should stimulate interest in the work of the Union.

HITCHIN, STEVENAGE, AND DISTRICT W.S.S.—This Society has lately been engaged in organising meetings with the object of forming Women Citizens' Association in the four chief places in the southern part of the Parliamentary Division of North Hertfordshire. On October 2nd the first of these meetings was held in St. Mary's Hall, Welwyn. Mrs. Wathen presided, and the speakers were Mrs. Heitland and Miss Mercer. The representative audience were evidently much interested, and many questions were asked. There was a great feeling that men, as well as women, should be eligible for membership if a Citizens' Association were formed for Welwyn, and on the resolution being put from the chair that a "Citizens' Association be formed," Mrs. Hazell moved and Lady Scott Gatty seconded, "that men as well as women be admitted to membership." The resolution as amended was carried nem. con.

The second meeting was held at Hitchin on October 10th at the Restaurant. Miss Gosnell, head mistress of the Girls' Grammar School, presided, the speakers being Lady Nott Bower and Miss Mercer. Here again it was agreed to form a W.C.A. for Hitchin.

On October 11th Lady Nott Bower and Miss Mercer spoke at Stevenage, Mrs. Unwin Heathcote presiding. There was a very good gathering in spite of deluges of rain, and the resolution to form a W.C.A., moved by Miss Symons, seconded by Mrs. Locke, was carried nem. con.

The last meeting of the series was held at Knebworth on October 14th, with Miss Plowden as chairman and Miss Mercer as speaker. Knebworth also decided to form a W.C.A. Provisional committees were formed and good collections taken in each case, and a good number of members enrolled.

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE. — By invitation of the Leicester W.S.S., a Conference of Delegates of Women's Societies on "Housing" was held at the Temperance Hall Lecture Room on October 22nd. The speaker was Mrs. Carol King, of Birmingham, and the Chairman was Mr. Arthur Wakerly, J.P., a leading architect and former Mayor of Leicester. The Chairman and Mrs. Ring gave most valuable addresses, full of practical suggestions, the outcome of their many years' experience. A good and keen discussion followed, special interest being taken in the arrangement of bathrooms, pantries, and cupboards; and a number of resolutions were passed, dealing both with administration and with practical house construction.

CHESTER.—On Oct. 23, a meeting, fairly well attended by members and their friends, was held at Haswell's Café at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Crosland Taylor made a gracious Chairman, and Miss Macadam, of the Liverpool

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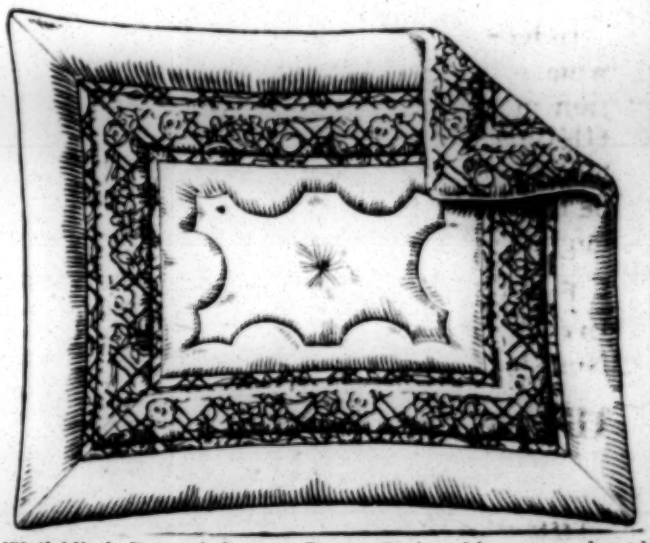

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University School of Social Science, gave an address on "The Social and Political Education of the Woman Voter." The speaker strongly urged the up-keeping of the local branches of the N.U.W.S.S., whose pioneer work, she said, was only beginning to show its full value, and she also pointed out the usefulness for practical purpoes of Women Citizens' Associations, which make an appeal to a wider circle, and draw in representatives of valuable, if less progressive, unions. The speaker was heard with deep attention, and Mrs. Crosland Taylor, when offering the thanks of the audience, referred to the decision being made in the House that very afternoon concerning women M.P.'s, of which the news—now known to be favorable—had not yet come through. A number of copies of The Common Cause were disposed of, and a collection of 19s. 3d. taken.

PURLEY.—Under the joint auspices of the N.U.W.S.S. and the Purley and Coulsdon Branches of the B.W.T.A., a successful public meeting to protest against Regulation 40 D. (D.O.R.A.) was held in the Lecture Hall, Purley, on October 25th. The Rev. E. A. Shattock, Vicar of St. James's, who presided, expressed his appreciation of the public-spirited action of the women's organisations responsible for the initiation of the meeting, and expressed his regret that no such meeting had been organised by the men of the district. Letters of sympathy with the protest were read from Rev. H. Granville Dixon, Rev. G. H. Martin, and Rev. S. Parkinson. Miss Alison Neilans (Secretary of the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene) very kindly came down to address the meeting, and in a concise and closely-reasoned speech put the case against the Regulation. She was followed by the Rev. A. Pringle, who spoke strongly against the Regulation from the point of view of right-thinking manhood.

A discussion followed, which proved that the meeting was in full sympathy with the protest, and which was remarkable for the fact that it was conducted solely by men members of the audience.

A resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Regulation was passed unanimously.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Margaret Jones.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).

Hon. Treasurers:
Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher and
Miss Rosamond Smith.

Secretaries:
Miss Agnew, Mrs. Hubback (Information and Parliamentary).

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarter Notes.

The practical certainty of a General Election is making this Office, in common with those of all political organisations, exceedingly busy, and while this is being printed a special Executive will be sitting to decide what Election policy shall be recommended to the Union. Meanwhile work connected with the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Bill has been keeping the Office fully occupied. The result of the question regarding commissions for women doctors in the R.A.M.C., which is being asked by Mr. Acland as we go to press will be watched with interest, as this is the matter in which this Office has been co-operating with the Federation of Medical Women and with the women doctors who are doing military work.

The work that comes in so continuously is interesting but expensive, and some recent donations from Societies have been very cheering. Glasgow, New Forest, Ilkley, Kingston and Surbiton, and Norwich have each sent £5, Rugby a guinea, and Burnham £1. Mrs. E. Stewart Brown, Chairman of the Liverpool Society, has sent a most generous donation of £20.

The new leaflet, objects and programme of the N.U.W.S.S., has been sold out, and is being reprinted. Those who want pre-war luggage-labels should apply to the Literature department. There are several hundred labels selling at 3d. a dozen with green and red corners which facilitate luggage-finding in these days of difficult travelling.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917 ...	3,586	7	10
Received from October 20th to 31st, 1918:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. Mary B. Samson		2	6
Miss Ethel Hensman		5	0
Miss Elsie Hensman		10	0
Miss Edith Cadmore and Miss M. S. Walker		5	0
Miss C. E. Western		5	0
Miss Amy Hicks (half year) ...	1	0	0
Miss Esther Womack		2	6
Miss A. M. Partridge		2	6
Miss J. A. Booth		2	0
Mrs. Boyd		10	0
Miss B. Alder	1	0	0
Miss Ethel Mathieson	1	0	0
Miss Eileen Peel (2 years) ...		10	0
" " " ...		5	0
Mrs. Auerbach	25	0	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Kidderminster W.S.S.		5	0
New Forest W.S.S.		12	0
Ramsgate W.S.S.		5	0
Letchworth W.S.S.		10	0
Kelso W.S.S.		18	3
Whaley Bridge W.S.S.		17	6
Heaton Moor W.S.S.		10	0
High Wycombe W.S.S.		5	0
Abergavenny W.S.S.		6	0
Glenfarg W.S.S.		8	0
Castle Douglas W.S.S.		7	6
Hartlepool W.S.S.		10	0
Shipston-on-Stour W.S.S. ...		5	0
Port Talbot W.S.S.		5	3
Stockport W.S.S.		11	6
Marple Bridge & Mellor W.S.S		5	6
Upton-on-Severn W.S.S.		7	6
Newport (Mon.) W.S.S.	3	17	0
Cambridge University, Girton College W.S.S.		18	0
Hastings & St. Leonards W.S.S.	1	6	6
Clevedon W.S.S.		7	6
Croydon W.S.S.		12	6
Rugby W.S.S.		15	0
Seaford W.S.S.		5	0
Taunton W.S.S.		9	9
Bridgnorth W.S.S.		13	3
Burton-on-Trent W.S.S.		12	6
Neath & Briton Ferry W.S.S. ...		7	6
Portishead W.S.S.		6	6
Donations			
New Forest W.S.S.	5	0	0
The Hon. Miriam Pease ...		10	0
Abergavenny W.S.S.		4	0
Mrs. Mary B. Samson	1	0	0
Ilkley W.S.S.	5	0	0
Rugby W.S.S.	1	1	0
Warwick & Leamington W.S.S.		10	0
Kingston & Surbiton W.S.S. ...	5	0	0
Mrs. E. Stewart-Brown	20	0	0
	£3,673	12	4

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

A grand concert organised by Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl was given in Auchterarder, Perthshire, the Duchess, herself an accomplished pianist, presiding at the piano. Miss Haldane, C.B., of Cloan, in introducing the artists, said they had come in a good cause—namely, to help in the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Miss Etta Shankland, organiser of the S.W.H., had asked them to provide enough money to purchase a motor-ambulance, and although only ten days had passed, she was very pleased to announce that already they had received over £200 for their "Auchterarder" car, and that their good friends, Sir James and Lady Roberts, had generously promised to provide a second car.

Lord Haldane, in proposing a vote of thanks to the artistes, whe were mostly of the Beecham Opera Company, said that the good work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was not finished yet, as the war was not over. As a result of this concert about £50 was added to their local fund, as Lord Haldane had generously paid all expenses.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H. Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. The great advance taking place at present on the Western and Eastern Fronts has caused the resources of the Scottish Women's Hospitals to be taxed to their utmost extent. The Committee urge, therefore, for continued, and even greater support from the public to meet the many demands that daily come from the various Units. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units should be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, S.W.H., 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to October 17th, 1918 338,962	12	1	
Further donations received to October 24th, 1918:—			
*Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, to continue "Claims and Record Office, Kew" Bed	5	15	0
*Further subscriptions from American Red Cross, Washington, per Miss Kathleen Burke: 2nd Instalment from new grant of War Council of American Red Cross, per Sir Robert Hudson, G.B.E., Chairman of the Finance Committee, British Red Cross Society, per Lieut.-Col. W. Endicott, American Red Cross Commissioner ($50,000)	10,487	0	4
*William J. Sloane, Esq. ...	15	0	0
*"Baberton Golf Club," per Martin McCall, Esq., Hon Sec., to continue "Baberton" Bed (Corsica)	25	0	0
Anoynmous	2	0	0
*Collected in Bridge of Allan, Stirling, and Stirling District for Beds, per Mrs. Bain, Hon. Treas., Stirlingshire District, Bruntsfield, Bridge of Allan: "Bridge of Allan" Bed (£50), "Stirling" Bed (£50), "Stirling District" Bed (£38 10s. 1d.), Sale of Post Cards of Dr. Inglis (£2 18s. 4d.), (£5 11s. 7d.) 147	0	0	
*Collected per Miss Williamson, Miss Holmes' Lecture for "September" Bed (Salonica): Balance from last year (£2), Miss Williamson (£3 13s.), £2 2s. each: Mr. G. Harding Edgar, Mrs. St. Clair Cunningham; Lady Cowan (£2), Per Mrs. Richardson (£1 5s. 6d.), £1 each: Mrs. McLagan, Mrs. Watherston, Mr. G. Stewart, Miss Browne, Mr. Allison, Mr. & Mrs. W. Cunningham, Mrs. Hogarth; Mrs. Grey (10s. 6d.), 10s. each: Mrs. Sim, Miss Swan, Mrs. Menelaws, Mrs. Savrill; Sums under 10s. (£2 17s.)	25	0	0
Miss A. L. Lumsden	50	0	0
*Per Miss M. L. Gillett, to continue "Kingsfield" and "M.B.O." Beds (Royaumont)	15	0	0
*The Northern Co-Operative Society Ltd., Loch Street, Aberdeen, per John Ferrier, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss Anna T. Kellock	10	0	0
*Manchester Federation Field Hospital, per D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas. ...100	0	0	
*Haddington W.S.S., per Miss Paterson, Treas., to continue "Haddington" and "Lamp of Lothian" Beds (Royaumont)	50	0	0
Per Miss Etta Shankland, organiser, S.W.H.: R.N.T.F. sports Committee, per W. R. Barclay, Esq., Hon Sec., share allotted from surplus of Sports	5	0	0
Mrs. E. Manners	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Thomson (£3), Miss M. B. Thomson (£2)	5	0	0
*Miss Rankine	50	0	0
*Per Miss Macdonald-Clark, Collected from the Children of Kelty School, per Miss J. Brock, towards "Scots Thistle" Bed (Royaumont) ...	1	0	0
	£349,961	17	5

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Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S).

NOVEMBER 8.

Poplar—Presbyterian Settlement, 56, East India Dock Road—Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith—Subject: "A Ministry of Health Bill" 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 11.

Birmingham—University—Speaker: Mrs. Ring—Subject: "Some Government Departments and their Functions" 5.30 p.m.

Bromsgrove — Meeting — Speakers: Mrs. Cooper, Miss E. Rogers 7.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 12.

Stratford-on-Avon — Town Hall — Speakers: Miss Rosamond Smith, Mrs. Ring—Subject: "Votes and Responsibilities"—Chairman: Mrs. Melville 7.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 13.

Shipston-on-Stour—Picture House—Meeting—Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith—Chair: Rev. W. A. Edwards 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 14.

Ross—Corn Exchange—Speakers: Miss Rosamond Smith, Miss E. Rogers—Chair: Mrs. Evan Thomas 3.15 and 7.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 15.

Hereford—Town Hall—Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith 7.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

NOVEMBER 9.

Downe—Downe House School—Miss Curwen speaks to the girls who are at present responsible for one "bed."

NOVEMBER 10.

City Temple, Holborn Viaduct—Miss Maude Royden preaches at the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct — Subject: "Do We Suffer to Save Others?" 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 13-23.

Central Hall, Westminster — "The Englishwoman" Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. First day 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Clapham — Wirtemberg Hall, Wirtemberg Street—Speaker: Mr. P. H. Thomas, I.S.O. (Liberal Candidate)—Subject: "Matters of Importance to Women Electors"—Chair: Miss Huntington 8 p.m.

NOVEMBER 15.

Hove — Town Hall — Speaker: Lady Nott Bower — Subject: "Women as Magistrates Solicitors and Jurors"—Chair: Mrs. Herbert Jones 3.15 p.m.

NOVEMBER 18.

Charing Cross—Restaurant, 43, Chandos Street—Luncheon to meet the Rt. Hon. Sir W. H. Dickinson, M.P. — Subject: "Nationality of Married Women"—Chairman: Miss Crystal Macmillan—Tickets can be obtained from Hon. Treasurer, B.D.W.C.U., 39, Meadway Court, N.W., price 2s. 6d. each, application should be made not later than November 11th 12.45 to 2.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 29, 30.

Central Hall, Westminster — Tribute Sale — Under the Patronage of Queen Alexandra—In aid of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women—Gifts for the sale from comforts for the soldiers to toys, jewellery, old silver, and perfume to be sent to The Secretary, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, 144, Euston Road, N.W.

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